

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANAA 01986 240915Z

15

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PC-01 IGA-01 NSC-07 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 SP-02 /045 W

----- 124390

R 240630Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4370

S E C R E T SANAA 1986

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS PEACE CORPS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, YE, US

SUBJECT: PEACE CORPS IN YEMEN

1. DURING SEPT 22 CALL ON HIM, PRIMIN MUHSIN AL-AYNI SAID HE WANTED TO ASK ABOUT PEACE CORPS. HE TOLD ME NUMBER OF PEOPLE NOT FRIENDLY TO US INTERESTS WERE QUESTIONING WISDOM OF ITS PRESENCE. PRIMIN NOTED THESE PEOPLE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ATTACK USAID PROGRAM, BUT HESITATED DOING SO BECAUSE IT WAS CLEARLY A USG ORGANIZATION. POSITION OF PEACE CORPS WAS, HOWEVER, NOT SO CLEAR. HE WONDERED WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE BETTER TO REPLACE IT WITH A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION AND WANTED TO KNOW MY OPINION.

2. I TOLD PRIMIN HE NEED HAVE NO DOUBT ABOUT POSITION OF PEACE CORPS. IT WAS, OF COURSE, PURELY A DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, NOT INVOLVED IN CARRYING OUT US FOREIGN POLICY AND ITS VOLUNTEERS WERE PRIVATE CITIZENS, NOT GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES. NEVERTHELESS PEACE CORPS WAS PART OF USG AND ITS LOCAL DIRECTOR WAS USG OFFICIAL. IT WAS, THEREFORE, SUBJECT TO POLICY AND PROGRAM GUIDANCE FROM DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND FROM EMBASSY. PEACE CORPS PROGRAMS IN YAR WHICH I DESCRIBED BRIEFLY, WERE DEVELOPED JOINTLY WITH YARG AGENCIES AND WERE COORDINATED CLOSELY WITH EMBASSY. I

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SANAA 01986 240915Z

COULD ASSURE PRIMIN OFFICIALLY AND PERSONALLY THAT FEARS

YARG HAD PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED DURING HIS PREVIOUS TERM AS PRIMIN IN 1972 THAT YARG LACKED MEANS TO CONTROL SUCH VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS WERE NOT JUSTIFIED SINCE PEACE CORPS WORKED CLOSELY WITH YARG AGENCIES IN ITS PROJECTS AND WAS SUBJECT TO EMBASSY GUIDANCE AND SUPERVISION JUST AS WAS USAID. IF PRIMIN SHOULD SEE ANY PROBLEM DEVELOPING, HE SHOULD IMMEDIATELY INFORM ME OR NEW AMBASSADOR, WHEN HE ARRIVED, AND WE WOULD ENSURE THAT MATTER SOLVED. PRIMIN SAID HE HAD NO SPECIFIC PROBLEM IN MIND.

3. WITH REGARD SUBSTITUTION, I SAID IT WAS EMBASSY POLICY TO ENCOURAGE SUITABLE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FROM AS MANY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS AS POSSIBLE, NOT TO CHOOSE AMONG THEM. INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICES, PRIVATE COUNTERPART TO PEACE CORPS, WAS IN FACT ALREADY HELPING YAR, BUT ITS RESOURCES WERE LIMITED. PEACE CORPS HAD CONSIDERABLE GREATER RESOURCES WHICH I FELT WERE BEING UTILIZED VERY EFFECTIVELY IN YAR. ITS WITHDRAWAL WOULD MEAN SUBSTANTIAL LOSS TO YARG'S DEVELOPMENT EFFORT.

4. IN CLOSING I EXPRESSED HOPE PRIMIN WOULD USE WHAT I HAD PRESENTED TO HIM TO COMBAT UNFRIENDLY ELEMENTS. PRIMIN SAID HE WOULD, STRESSING THAT POINTS HE HAD RAISED DID NOT REPRESENT HIS VIEWS, ONLY THOSE OF CRITICS.

5. COMMENT: REGARDLESS OF HIS STATEMENTS, I SUSPECT IT IS PRIMIN HIMSELF WHO IS NOT WELL DISPOSED TO PEACE CORPS. IT WAS AYNI WHO INITIALLY TURNED DOWN PEACE CORPS AGREEMENT IN LATE 1972, DECISION SUBSEQUENTLY REVERSED BY SUCCESSOR GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD'S ASSURANCES THAT PEACE CORPS SUBJECT TO EMBASSY SUPERVISION. FURTHERMORE IT WAS AYNI'S DEPUTY AND PROTEGE, MINSTATE FOR FONAFF AL-KDODR, WHO IN 1972 DISTRIBUTED REPORT, ALLEGEDLY BASED ON ARAB LEAGUE INFORMATION BUT IN FACT SOVIET DISINFORMATION "BOILERPLATE", ASSERTING THAT PEACE CORPS WAS AGENT OF CIA. ALTHOUGH I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT AYNI HAS STRONG IDEOLOGICAL MOTIVATIONS, HIS CLOSE TIES TO IRAQIS AND THEREFORE INDIRECTLY WITH SOVIETS, MAY HAVE PROMPTED THIS LOW-KEY PROBE AGAINST PEACE CORPS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SANAA 01986 240915Z

6. WHILE IN SOME COUNTRIES IT MAY BE IN PEACE CORPS INTEREST TO MINIMIZE ITS IDENTIFICATION AS USG AGENCY, THIS IS CLEARLY NOT CASE IN YAR. ITS CONNECTION WITH USG, WHICH HAS MANY MORE POWERFUL FRIENDS THAN ENEMIES IN YARG, IS TO MY MIND SOURCE OF PROTECTION AGAINST THOSE IDEOLOGICALLY HOSTILE TO PEACE CORPS PRESENCE.

7. I HAVE INFORMED PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR HERMES OF
FOREGOING AND ASKED THAT HE INSTRUCT HIS STAFF ABOUT
IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING ANY STATEMENTS ON PEACE CORPS
STATUS THAT COULD BE MISCONSTRUED OR MISUSED BY
UNFRIENDLY ELEMENTS.
NEWTON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANAA01986
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740268-0304
From: SANAA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740917/aaaaaoag.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <04 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PEACE CORPS IN YEMEN
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, YE, US, PC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005